

Remarks/Arguments:

By this response claims 1-63 are pending in the application, and claims 1-63 are subject to an election requirement.

Species Election

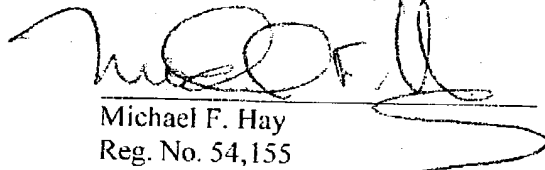
The Office Action imposed an election requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring the applicant elect a single species for prosecution on the merits between (1) an insertion tool for use with a valve prosthesis, and (2) an extraction tool for use with the valve prosthesis. Applicant hereby provisionally elects the insertion tool, with traverse. Applicant believes claims 1-44, 56-59, and 62 all read on the elected species.

Claims 1-28 and 56 are generic because no tool limitation is specified in the noted claims. If a generic claim is allowed, all species claims which include the limitations of the generic claims should be allowed. See MPEP 806.04(d).

Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the application and upon allowance of a generic claim with respect to the elected species, examination of all claims with respect to the non-elected species as well. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant does not believe any fees are due at this time, however the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to deposit account 501285. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this communication, the undersigned can be contacted to expedite the resolution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Hay", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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